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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: PREL, MASS, EAID, TS  
 SUBJECT: FONMIN REACTS TO SENATOR'S COMMENTS ON TUNISIA

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT..

2. DURING MARCH 24 CALL ON FONMIN BEJI CAID ESSEBSI, AMBASSADOR WAS TOLD HEATEDLY THAT GOT WAS MOST DISTRESSED OVER COMMENTS MADE BY SENATOR KASTEN DURING RECENT SFRC HEARING ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE. SENATOR KASTEN IS SAID TO HAVE CRITICIZED TUNISIA FOR SUPPORTING LIBYAN SPONSORED ARAB LEAGUE AND OIC RESOLUTIONS AGAINST THE U.S. FONMIN ARGUED THAT TUNISIA'S PROBLEMS WITH LIBYA WERE THERE FOR ALL TO BEHOLD, AND HE RECALLED HIS ACCOUNTING TO ME OF THE FEZ MEETING (TUNIS 391) AND ARAB LEAGUE MEETINGS (TUNIS 1078). HE SAID HE HOPED THE DEPARTMENT WOULD SHARE ITS KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACTS WITH THE SENATOR AND SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. SEBASTIAN

END OF MESSAGE

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